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Report of the
Superintendent
of
Public Instruction

Presented to Congress
in Education

January 16th 1864

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Office of the Superintendent of
Public Instruction

June 13-1864

To the Council & House of Representatives
in the Territory of Nevada:

It is my duty to lay before
you the condition of the common schools
within the boundaries of our Territory.
It is well to bear in mind that
as we are yet in a transition
state, the time only two months
of the Territorial Legislature have
expired, - during which attention
has necessarily been given to the
adoption of general laws & to the
introduction of present funda-
mental principles upon which a
future state might be erected with
safety. It must not be presumed
that any department of our gov-
ernment has become absolutely
perfect in its organization in this
brief period. Our schools are in a
period of general reform of its
provisions, & attention in other respects,
yet we are the more indebted to
you for your interest & aid.

That a system of public instruction
 was introduced during the century
 our first Legislature, was highly credit-
 able alike to the members of that
 body, & to the citizens in a common
 bond to do good, & improve. Such
 manifested materials. This is the
 more remarkable when we ~~remember~~
~~that it occurred at a time when we~~
 remember, that it occurred at a time
 when the public mind was derisive
 and by the existence of a tribal and
 war. It is prudent Legislature & can-
 nings, because no one would have
 made a provision for the instruction
 & proper cultivation of the youth of
 our State. - The spirit it was a ~~strong~~
 patronage all the energy action that was
 in the heart of our citizens. It has
 gained strength in every community &
 has transmitted over many a rising
 interest. Now it is a manifestation
 notice the fact that within the past
 year every County in the ^{up} Territory has
 organized its educational system in
 accordance with the provisions of the law.
 It is shown from the annual reports
 of the County Superintendents that
 Schools have been maintained in almost

distinct from those to be seen now & during the last year - the Hygiene City the effort to establish a system of graded schools has been entirely successful. There are three departments under the direction of an able Superintendent & efficient teachers. All the other schools in the Territory are primary or mixed schools.

4. In the reports of the several County Superintendents of public instruction ~~of the~~ we have prepared a statistical table, (herewith appended) showing the ~~total~~ number of children between the four & twenty-one years of age in each county, - the number attending school, - the amount appropriated from the Territorial School fund, & the amount collected for school purposes from all other sources.

about five hundred of which, is reported to have been drawn from the public school fund in addition to this a number of private schools have been sustained in different places, all proving the deep interest which is everywhere felt by our citizens in the subject of education.

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The Territorial Board of Education have sought to render our present system of common schools as efficient as possible. They have labored to infuse vitality & energy into every department. They

have encountered difficulties in the law itself which have been exceedingly embarrassing, & to which it may not be inappropriate to call your attention.

Section Seven of the amendatory Act passed at the last session of the legislature provides that each Board of District Trustees & section ten of the same Act relating to the establishment of common schools in Story County, requires the County Board of Education for that County, to conform in the selection of school books & system of teaching to rules prescribed by the Territorial Board of Education; but in defining the duties of the Territorial Board of Education, that Board is not ~~not~~ ^{or authorized in terms} required to prescribe any "system of text books" or any "system of teaching." Presuming however that it was the intent of the law that they should do so, the Board at an early

day" selected a course of "text books" & prescribed "a system" of graded school, & issued a circular calling the special attention of County Superintendents, District Writers & Teachers, to what they had done; but the conflicting opinions as to the authority of the Board to adopt the regulations suggested, frustrated all their efforts, to secure uniformity in these respects. It is hoped that this omission in the law will be supplied.

Section Second of the ^{same} ~~amending~~ ^{act} reads as follows: "All school monies of each County in the Territory shall be paid over by the Territorial Treasurer to the County Treasurer, every County excepted, on the first day of May & the first day of November of each year, or as soon thereafter as the County Treasurer may apply for the same, upon the warrant of the Territorial Auditor drawn in conformity with the apportionment of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, as provided for in Section Second in this Chapter [Article] provided, however that no mileage nor allowance other than commissions provided by law be made to any County Treasurer for receiving & transporting said money.

organized, Every County incl. 4

to the county of Story the ~~entire~~
^{entire} decision ~~that it was in~~
~~the interest of the Territory~~. This is the
 only section which provides for the
 distribution of the Territorial
 school fund. It directly & positively
 excepts Story County, & seemingly
 contrary to Section Second & Article
 Second of the old constitution was
 not repealed in terms. Story County
 was taxed & its Board of Education in
 some degree made amenable to the
 Territorial Board, but according to the
 literal wording of the section to which
 it have referred, Story County was not
 to have its proportion of the Territorial
 school money. This apparent contra-
 diction in the law, greatly embarrassed
 the action of the Territorial Board
 of Education; & desiring that some
 justice might be done toward the
 public schools of Story County, &
 at the same time the law of the
 Territory be fully regarded, the Terri-
 torial Board of Education deemed
 it advisable to consult eminent
 legal gentlemen, under whose
 advice & opinions, it was finally
 determined to apportion the school
 money to all the counties properly
 organized, Story County included
 was done. So this is
 attention is particu-
 larly so that by amending
 any doubt or mis-
 understanding of the
 meaning of the
 act is hereby removed.

From what has been shown, it must be
 a lament that the means
 provided by law ~~for~~ for the
 support of our public schools are
 insufficient. Many districts are
 still destitute of houses, only as they
 are hired, & these are generally crowded
 to overflowing however uncomfortable
 they may be. But one school in the
 Territory has a library. Only a ~~very~~
 few have charts, maps, globes, or other
 apparatus. Often blackboards are want-
 ing & in not a few instances, the seats
 & desks are imperfectly constructed, &
 badly arranged. But even these
 accommodations are insufficient.
 The great majority of the children
 & youth of our Territory, have no
 provision whatever made for their
 education. This deficiency becomes
 the more ~~startling~~ ^{alarming} from the fact,
 that immigration is pouring in upon
 us with unparalleled rapidity, & there
 is every prospect that the tide will be
 greatly increased, during the approaching
 season. Towns in whatever direction
 we may, settlements are forming; - ham-
 lets, growing into villages, - villages
 becoming cities, & cities doubling
 the number of their inhabitants.

every few months. Many persons have regarded these circumstances with the deepest solicitude. Mr Mc. Duffie, Superintendent of public instruction for Lyon & Churchill Counties, says, "I would earnestly recommend some provision made by the Legislature, for the better support of public schools. The money received from the Territory & County, under ^{the} existing law for the maintenance of public schools, especially the sums appropriated to Lyon County, are not sufficient to pay teachers for the time schools ought to be taught. Why cannot Trustees of school districts, be empowered to levy special tax for the purchase of school libraries & apparatus, - to repair school houses & to supply any deficiency that may occur, for the payment of ^{at} teachers? Under the existing law Trustees ~~cannot~~ can levy special tax, only for the purchase of fuel. It is the prayer of your Superintendent that efficient measures may be taken by the Legislature about & convening, to place

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our common school system, on such a liberal financial basis, as shall stimulate our officers to enter upon the work of educating the children who are now here, & those that may come into our new territory, with renewed energy & faith that shall overcome all obstacles."

Dr Anderson, Superintendent of public instruction for Ormsby County, says in his report, "I have laboured to establish something like a graded school here, (District No 1 Carson City) but the incompleteness of the present school law, & want of funds & authority to raise funds, have been a hindrance, & always will be, until a different law is made. Two or three good private schools have been established here, & until we can succeed in securing a good system for our public schools, ^{some provision for} ~~the~~ suitable buildings, ~~to conduct them~~, our citizens cannot do better than to encourage private enterprise."

In the performance of my official duties during the past

year, I have visited all the schools with one or two exceptions, in the different Counties in the Territory. During those visits, & on other occasions, I have lectured on the subject of education; I have conferred with Teachers, Parents, Trustees, & with the friends of education generally, & wherever I have gone have found a confirmation of the statements made by Mr McDuffie, & by Dr Anderson.

There is a growing & a pressing demand for a more thorough, liberal & efficient system of education & much larger fund than that which the law now provides is most urgently required. Without it the educational interests & present needs of the whole Territory must suffer, & become seriously embarrassed. I do not however concur with the suggestion of confiding to the School Trustees, authority of levying a tax for this purpose; but

would suggest
instead of this,

that authority may be conferred on the Boards of County Commissioners of the respective counties, to levy an additional tax not ex-

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ceeding thirty cents on each hundred dollars of ~~appraised value of~~ taxable property, to be specially appropriated to the use of ~~public~~ common schools.

The law, "Setting apart annually five percent of all monies received as Territorial tax, for school purposes" has already or will soon expire by its own limitation.

~~By law~~ - It is earnestly desired that it should be immediately renewed.

I would also call ~~to~~ your attention to the provision of the law, which places to the credit of the school fund, all fines collected for a violation of the Penal laws of the Territory. But one such fine has been reported during the past year. Some additional legislation is needed, so as to render this, a source of considerable income to our schools, as such a construction is now given to the law by ~~some~~ ^{most} of our Magistrates, by which the payment of costs, which mainly go into the private exchequer, parties charged with offence are permitted to be released without additional penalty.

I would further ~~respectfully~~ recommend, that the Territorial

Board of Education, be empowered to examine ^{the} teachers, & to grant certificates of qualification, which shall remain in full force in any County or School District in the Territory for the period of two years. ~~Also that~~ ^{that} County Superintendents may grant such certificates, within their respective Counties, for the period of one year, provided in either case that such certificates may be recalled or annulled for immoral conduct, or other disqualification -

Provision should be made ^{by law} for the publication of the school law in a pamphlet form, & for the publication of blank certificates of qualification for teachers, - blank Reports for County Superintendents, - District Trustees, Teachers & Census Marshals. Until this is done, important omissions, mistakes, & inaccuracies will constantly occur in obtaining information respecting the condition of our public schools -

As regard the establishment of a

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University of the highest literary & scientific excellence, as an enterprise of the greatest importance to the welfare of the people of this Territory. A Polytechnic department in which all the natural sciences should receive the most careful attention, ought to be established at the earliest possible period. The manifold interests especially demand such an enterprise. But until some more liberal financial provisions can be made for education than what we now have, I do not see that any efficient measures can be adopted for the establishment of such an institution, however much it may be needed.

The recommendations offered for the improvement of our ~~the~~ school laws, ~~of the Territory~~, are such as have been suggested by the most careful investigation, & by constant attention to its practical workings in different parts of our Territory.

They are all respectfully submitted for your candid consideration.

A. J. White Superintendent of
Education

Appendix A. Statistical Table.

	No. of Children between 10 & 14 years in 1890.	No. attending School.	Amount apportioned to the ~~several~~ ^{several} counties from the territorial deficit.	Amount received for the support of the law from all other sources.
Ormsby County.	410	68	224.71	1326.66
Otoya "	736	278	363.19	2586.81
Washoe "	323	107	236.91	443.87
Douglas "	215	72	148.07	891.93
Lyon & Churchill "	246	82	174.19	1496.80
Humboldt "	177			
Lander "	217	48		
Esmeralda "	101			
Total -	2425	655	\$1147.07	\$6746.07.

Appendix B.

Abstract from Reports of County Superintendents

Ormsby County. C. L. Anderson, S. S.

This County is divided into ^{three} districts. District No. 1 embraces Carson City. The number of persons between the ages of four & twenty one year — male, 150, — female 192. — ^{no} total 342. There have been 7 1/2 months school during the year. Paid teacher salary \$846.30 for furnishing & repairing ^{school} house \$557.37. There is but one school house in the district — a substantial stone building. Another is greatly needed.

District No. 2 embraces Empire City & vicinity. Number of persons between the ages of four & twenty one year, 68. There have been three months school during the year. The district ~~has no public~~ ^{has no public} school house.

Total no. of children in the County. 410.

" " " Schools taught — 2.

" " " School House, 1.

Amount paid Teacher, about \$1000.

" " for furnishing & repairs ^{house} \$557.37.

The books used ~~are~~ as far as practicable are those recommended by the Territorial Board.

Story County. J. A. Collins.

There are three school districts in this County.

Virginia District embraces Virginia City.

Number of persons between four & twenty one years of age is 435. The school is graded.

In the Primary department there are 80 pupils. In the first Intermediate there are 70. In the second Intermediate there are 35. In the Grammar School there are 56. Total in attendance 241. Old Hill District embrace the city of Old Hill & vicinity. Total number of persons between four & twenty one years of age - 60. School not graded. Average attendance - 37.

Total No of children in the County 736

" " " " attending school 278

" " " School Librarian 1

" amount paid Teachers, \$2950.

Length of school, $10\frac{1}{2}$ months in the year. Text Books - Hargent's Readers & Speller. Lett-
urn's Mental Arithmetic. ~~Wither's~~ practical Arith-
metic. Green's Grammar. Cornell's Geog-
raphy's. Loring's United States History
Cutler's Physiology. Wilson's Object Lessons.
& Charts. Webster's Dictionary & Mrs Cowdery's
Moral Lessons.

Nashoe County - Gen J. W. North -

There are five school districts.

Four schools have been taught during the year - each for the period of six months -

Number of children in the County be-
tween the ages of four & twenty one years.

323. There is not a public School House
in the County. Total amount paid Teachers from

The Common School Fund. \$680.78.
 About as much more was raised & paid
 there, by private contributions.

Average attendance upon the various
 schools about one third the whole
 number of children in the County.
Sext Books - Webster's Elementary Spelling-
 Book. ^{McGuffey's} Readers. Cornell's Geography
 Smith's Grammar & Ray's Arithmetic

Douglas County - L. D. Daggett. M. E.

This County is divided into three School Districts
District No 1. Number of Children between
 four & twenty one years of age - males 30 - fe-
 males 28. Total 58. A school has been
 sustained for six months during the year
 The District has a comfortable ^{wooden} school
 house. Amount paid Teacher not reported.

District No 2. Whole no of Children - 92 -
 Pupils attending school 30. Teachers salary
 \$521 paid by private contribution -
 \$100. per month. Time taught six months.
 There is no ^{public} school house ~~owned~~ by the District

District No 3. Total no of Children entitled
 to the benefit of public funds males 37, fe-
 males 28. Total 65. Average attendance
 14. A school has been taught eleven
 months during the year - Paid Teacher \$440.

Total no of children in the County 215

"	"	"	School House	2
"	"	"	School kept during the year	3
"	"	"	Amount paid Teachers from public	1100

School fund \$79. School kept - 1
 Amount paid Teachers by private subscription \$961.

Text Books - Webster's Spelling Book,
Larson's, McDuffie's &
Lander's Readers, Linstock's Philosophy,
Andrew Jackson Davis's Progressive
Philosophy, Mitchell's Geography,
Smith's Grammar, Webster's Dictionary,
Abbott's History of the war & Abbott's History
of the World.

Notes: For the credit of Douglas County it is proper
to remark, that although the above ^{named} ~~course of~~
~~Text Books~~ ^{are} the only ^{text book} ~~course~~ reported, still
their use is strictly confined to one district.
The ^{County} Superintendent condemns the use of
"The Works of A. A. Davis as especially per-
nicious to the susceptible minds of chil-
dren & youth." The necessity for a uniform
system of Text Books prescribed by the Terri-
torial Board of Education, could hardly be more
forcibly demonstrated. A. J. White.

* Lyon & Churchill Counties - Charles D. McDuffie.
There are two school districts in Lyon County.
District No 1 embraces Silver City & vicinity.
The number of children & youth entitled to
the benefit of the public fund is, - males 64. females
53. Total 117. The district has a school house
District No 2, ^{embraces Dayton & vicinity} Number of children
between the ages of four & twenty one
years, - males 65. females 64. Total 129.
This district also has a school house -
Total number of children & youth in
the County entitled to the benefit of the

School

Public fund. 246. Total no of School
houses. 2. Material wood. No of School
taught during the year. 2. ^{Pa} Leading 1671.
Text Books - Sargent's Speller, & Reading
Warren's Intermediate Geography, Green's
Grammar, Horner's Mental & Practical
Arithmetic. Cornell's Primary Geography
Miss Willard's History of the United States,
Payson's ~~the~~ System of Penmanship

Humboldt County. E. A. Scott.

This County is divided into five School Districts.
Districts No 1, 2, 3, & 4 have each a com-
fortable School House in which
Schools have been ^{taught} ~~kept~~ during the
year.

District No 5 has a School House in
process of erection -

These houses are all built of
adobe & are warm & capacious.

Number of persons in the County
between four & twenty one years of age.
Males. 84. Females. 93. Total 177 -

The expenses of building & the support
of "Teachers" have been ^{provided for} promptly ~~met~~
by private contributions, & have in
the aggregate amounted to about \$6000 -

Lander County. Mr J. Brown

There is but one School District in this County.
Total no of persons between four & twenty one

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years of age - 217. School taught 1. No
of pupils in attendance 48. Time
the school has been sustained:
five months. A School House in
process of erection - Estimated cost
\$1500. Material adobe. - No system of
text books reported - ~~No aid from public.~~

Esmeralda County, ^{Rev. J. B. Saxton}
But one School District is established in this Co.
The number of children & youth be-
tween four & twenty one years of age
- males 54 - females 47. Total 101.
A private school has been taught
during the year. There is no public
School House in the County.